

REMARKS:

Claims 1-33 were originally presented in the present application. In the Office Action of August 17, 2004 the Examiner restricted the claims into the following two groups:

Group 1, claims 1-16 and 24-33, drawn to a mower drive connection, classified in class 56, subclass 14.7; and


Group 2, claims 17-23, drawn to a mower tree guard, classified in class 56, subclass 17.4.

Applicant hereby elects group 1 (claims 1-16 and 24-33) for further prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

By: _____


Kameron D. Kelly, Reg. No. 44,181
2405 Grand Boulevard, Suite 400
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
(816) 474-9050
ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

(Docket No. 31936-CNT1)